

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

INRE-00 /054 W

----- 069794

O R 011000Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3116

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NICOSIA 0525

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CY

SUBJECT: NICOSIA DAILY TA NEA ALLEGES LARSON IS CIA CHIEF

1. NICOSIA DAILY TA NEA (PRO-LYSSARIDES) FEBRUARY 29 RAN FRONT PAGE STORY UNDER FOLLOWING HEADLINES: "LARSON IS CIA STATION CHIEF, HIS PREDECESSOR HAS RESIGNED, AMERICAN EMBASSY NICOSIA AN IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS." FULL TEXT STORY FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT: LARSON HAS ASSUMED THE DUTIES OF CIA STATION CHIEF IN CYPRUS AS OF LAST DECEMBER. LARSON, WHO APPEARS AS FIRST SECRETARY OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN NICOSIA, HAS BEEN DETACHED FROM THE CIA GROUP IN GREECE TO TAKE OVER THE PLACE OF LONG WHO IS SAID TO HAVE RESIGNED AND LEFT CYPRUS AS WELL AS CIA FOLLOWING WELSH'S MURDER IN THE GREEK CAPITAL. ACCORDING TO CERTAIN INFORMATION, LONG'S RELATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR DAVIES WHO WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSASSINATED IN NICOSIA AND WITH WELCH WERE PARTICU-

LARLY CLOSE AND THEY WERE CONNECTED BY COMMON SECRETS. CERTAIN ASSOCIATES OF LONG INDICATE THAT, AFTER WELCH'S ASSASSINATION, LONG REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED FEARS FOR HIS LIFT.

3. IN THE MEANTIME, IT HAS BEEN LEARNED THAT THE WHOLE CIA DETACHMENT, 8-10 PERSONS, WHO WERE IN CYPRUS DURING THE TREACHEROUS JULY COUP AND THE INVASION HAS BEEN GRADUALLY REPLACED BECAUSE ALL ITS MEMBERS EITHER BECAME WELL KNOWN DUE TO THEIR INCREASED ACTIVITY AMONG THE ILLEGAL CIRCLES OR THEY COULD NOT FULLY RESPOND TO THE DUTIES THEY WERE ASSIGNED. AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN REPLACED ARE CITRON, BOWE AND THE WELL-KNOWN WILLIAMS WHO SPOKE GREEK VERY WELL AND WAS PARTICULARLY DISTINGUISHED FOR HIS ACTIVITIES UNDERMINING LAWFULNESS IN CYPRUS.

4. WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CHANGES AND REARRANGEMENTS OF THE U.S. EMBASSY STAFF, THE CHIEF OF THE AMERICAN INFORMATION SERVICE (U.S.I.S.), KNOWN AS THE AMERICAN CENTER, GRIMLAND HAS ALSO BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM CYPRUS. GRIMLAND, WHO WAS ACTIVE DURING HIS STAY HERE IN THE STUDENT WORLD, PARTICULARLY IN THE CRITICAL PERIOD OF ARMED ACTION BY EOKA-B, HAS BEEN REPLACED BY ROBERT JELLISON. ACCORDING TO RECENT INFORMATION, THE LATTER WAS SERVING AS AN OFFICER IN THE U.S. NAVY BEFORE HE TOOK OVER AS CHIEF OF THE AMERICAN INFORMATION SERVICE IN NICOSIA.

5. FOLLOWING THE MURDER OF WELCH IN ATHENS, RIGOROUS SECURITY MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN NICOSIA AND, GENERALLY, AT ALL THE AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS. A SPECIAL POLICE GUARD POST HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED OUTSIDE THE U.S. EMBASSY FOR PROTECTION WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, FULLY ARMED MARINES, NUMERICALLY REINFORCED RECENTLY, ARE GUARDING THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING WHICH HAS BECOME AN IMPREGNABLE IRON-FENCED FORTRESS. ANYONE, ORDINARY CITIZEN OR NOT, WHO WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE EMBASSY IS SUBJECTED TO EXTREMELY CLOSE SEARCH AND INVESTIGATION AS TO THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT. IT HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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BEEN LEARNED THAT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF EMERGENCY SECURITY MEASURES AT THE U.S. EMBASSY, A SENIOR MILITARY MAN IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN NICOSIA TO UNDERTAKE THE ORGANIZATION OF SECURITY. END TEXT. CRAWFORD

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